Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled)

2. (canceled)

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76. (previously presented) A synthetic peptide with a high affinity for glycosaminoglycans and proteoglycans of a formula selected from the group consisting of $(XBBBXXBX)_n$, $(XBXXBBBX)_n$, $(XBBXBX)_n$, and $(XBXBBX)_n$, wherein:

each B is independently selected from the group consisting of arginine and lysine residues;

each X is independently any amino acid residue; and

n is at least 2.

77. (previously presented) A synthetic peptide according to claim 76, wherein n is from 2 to 6.

78. (previously presented) A synthetic peptide according to claim 77, wherein:

each X is independently selected from the group consisting of alanine and glycine residues.

79. (currently amended) A synthetic peptide according to claim 78, wherein said peptide is selected from the group consisting of amino acid sequences SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:41, SEQ ID NO:42, SEQ ID NO:43, SEQ ID NO:44, SEQ ID NO:49, SEQ ID NO:51, SEQ ID NO:54, SEQ ID NO:55, SEQ ID NO:56[,]_.

80. (previously presented) A synthetic peptide according to claim 76, which comprises at least one D-amino acid residue.

81. (previously presented) A synthetic peptide according to claim 77, which comprises at least one D-amino acid residue.

82. (previously presented) A synthetic peptide of a formula selected from the group consisting of $(XBBBXXBX)_n$, $(XBXXBBBX)_n$, $(XBBXBX)_n$, and $(XBXBBX)_n$, wherein:

each B is independently selected from the group consisting of arginine and lysine residues;

each X is independently any amino acid residue;

n is at least 2;

provided that a single cysteine residue is contained in said synthetic peptide at an X position within three amino acid residues of the N-terminus or the C-terminus of said synthetic peptide.

83. (previously presented) A synthetic peptide according to claim 82, wherein n is from 2 to 6.

84. (previously presented) A synthetic peptide according to claim 83, wherein:

each X is independently selected from the group consisting of cysteine, alanine and glycine residues.

85. (previously presented) A synthetic peptide according to claim 84, wherein said peptide is selected from the group consisting of amino acid sequences SEQ ID NO:35, SEQ ID NO:36, SEQ ID NO:37, and SEQ ID NO:38.

86. (previously presented) A synthetic peptide according to claim 82, which comprises at least one D-amino acid residue.

87. (previously presented) A synthetic peptide according to claim 83, which comprises at least one D-amino acid residue.

88. (canceled)

89. (previously presented) A synthetic concatameric peptide with a high affinity for glycosaminoglycans and proteoglycans wherein the sequence of amino acid residues of said peptide is represented by at least two segments selected from the group consisting of XBBBXXBX, XBXXBBBX, XBBXBX, and XBXBBX, wherein:

said peptide does not comprise only XBBBXXBX segments;

said peptide does not comprise only XBXXBBBX segments;

said peptide does not comprise only XBBXBX segments;

said peptide does not comprise only XBXBBX segments;

each segment is separated from an adjacent segment by at least one of any amino acid residue;

each B is independently selected from the group consisting of arginine and lysine residues; and

each X is independently selected from the group consisting of cysteine, alanine and glycine residues, provided that a single cysteine residue is contained in said synthetic peptide at an X position within three amino acid residues of the N-terminus or the C-terminus of said synthetic peptide.